

REMARKS

In response to an Office Action, dated August 16, 2005, Applicants submit the following remarks. Claims 31-50 are pending in the Application, and these same claims have been rejected. Specifically, claims 31, 39-41, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,698,653 (Diamond et al.). Claims 32-38 and 42-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Diamond et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,105,010 (Musgrave).

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview and for offering insightful comments regarding the relation of the state of the art to the claimed subject matter. In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 31, 42, and 50. Applicants submit, that in view of these amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 31-50 patentably define over the cited references.

Telephonic Interview

On October 25, 2005, the Examiner and the undersigned discussed the relevance of the Diamond et al. reference to the claimed subject matter. In particular, the interview focused on ways that the recited claims, especially the independent claims, may patentably define over Diamond et al. The Examiner also helpfully indicated other potential references that could be cited against the pending claims – thus, helping the undersigned in the speedy prosecution thereof. For example, one such reference considered by the undersigned was U.S. Pat. No. 6,308,160 (Rex).

Rejection of Claims 31-50 Under §§ 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 31, 42, and 50 are the independent claims. For example, claim 31 recites:

A system for expediting security checking, comprising:

an interface configured for an individual to *order a security clearance for a particular venue*, wherein ordering the security clearance results in at least a verification of the individual's identity; and

a check-point to which the verification is routed, wherein the verification occurs before the arrival of the individual at the check-point.

(emphasis added). Applicants submit that the emphasized limitation defines over all cited art (or art discussed during the telephonic interview).

Specifically, the interface allows an individual to *order a security clearance* for a *particular venue*. Thus, a security clearance may be obtained for access to a secured venue that is chosen by the individual. When this is done, per the first limitation of claim 1, “ordering the security clearance results in at least a verification of the individual’s identity” (claim 1). Then, finally, “the verification is routed [to a check-point], wherein the verification occurs before the arrival of the individual at the check-point” (claim 1).

In contrast, Diamond et al. discloses an identification method and equipment for airports and like controlled facilities. This method first acquires an image of a face of an individual in a limited region, namely, the eyes and nose area, and generates data representing a compression of that image, which can be stored in a database and on a chip. Then, at some other location, the data stored on the chip can be presented for verification of the individual by comparing it to the data stored in the database. However, Diamond et al. does not disclose the ordering of a security clearance for a particular location, since there is no disclosure of the chip being tailed for a particular venue chosen by the individual.

Rex also fails to disclose this limitation. Rex discloses a remote host computer that functions in part as a central reservations system and is linked to travel agents and individual travelers who can make reservations for golf lessons and/or golf simulators at any of a number of golf facilities to suit their travel itinerary. However, Applicants submit that making a golf reservation does not disclose the limitations recited in claim 1.

Independent claims 42 and 50 contain similar limitations to that of claim 1, discussed above. Claims 32-41 and 43-49 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 31 and 42, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 31-50 patentably define over Diamond et al. alone or in combination with any other cited references, whether Rex or Musgrave. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowability of the newly introduced claims is thus earnestly solicited.

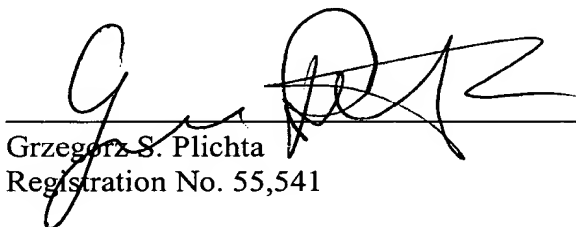
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CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submit that Claims 31-50 of the Application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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Grzegorz S. Plichta
Registration No. 55,541

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439